

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Kiyoshi Kusama et al.) : Examiner: Leon Jonathan Harper
Application No. 10/628,407) : Group Art Unit: 2166
Filed: July 29, 2010) : Confirmation No. 6364
For: METHOD, APPARATUS, AND) :
STORAGE MEDIA FOR IMAGE) :
PROCESSING) : July 30, 2010

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Sir:

Applicants are in receipt of a Notice of Allowance and Notice of Allowability, mailed June 9, 2010, in the subject application. The Notice of Allowability includes a Statement of Reasons for Allowance (Statement).

Applicants note that the Statement generally refers to the claim language recited in independent claim 57 of the application. For example, the Statement refers to “means for combining the subsets of material images output by the image *processing* apparatus.” Independent claims 57, 77, and 86 do not recite include this recitation, but rather refer to means for combining subset of material images output by the image *storage* apparatus. Applicants

respectfully submit that the claims should not be interpreted from the actual recited language in this regard, or in any other variation that may be set forth in the Statement from the actual recited language.

Applicants also note that the language of independent claims 77 and 86 differs from independent claim 57, and specifically varies from some of the language referred to in the Statement. For example, independent claim 86 refers to a "plurality of blocks," whereas the Statement refers to a "plurality of tiles." Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 77 and 86 should be interpreted based on their own language with respect to each of their features, and not necessarily as equivalent to the features of independent claim 57 or those referred to in the Statement.

Notwithstanding the foregoing comments, Applicants still believe that the invention set forth in the all of the claims of the application is patentable.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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